

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims as follows.

Claims 1-3. (Cancelled)

Claim 4. (Currently amended) A foldable truss member, comprising:
a plurality of adjacently connected side members together forming a peripheral boundary of the truss member, each side member comprising:
an elongated support member having a side surface;
a bridging member hingedly connected to the side surface of the support member at an attachment point of the support member, the bridging member having an extension at an edge of the bridging member opposite the attachment point; and
a plurality of hinge members pivotally joining the extension of each side member to a support member of an adjacent side member, each hinge member having comprise surfaces frictionally engaging the bridging members and a channel for said bridging member and wherein said support member forms a part of the hinge together with said channel which captures said bridging member, thereby allowing relative rotation of adjacent side members, a plurality of edges between adjacent side members defining a plurality of corners of the truss member.

Claims 5-10. (Cancelled)

Claim 11. (Currently amended) A foldable truss member, comprising:
a plurality of side members ~~means~~ each having at least four sides including comprising a lower edge and two adjacent side edges, the side members ~~means~~ adjacently arranged so that the lower edges of the adjacently arranged side members ~~means~~ form a closed shape; and
a plurality of ~~hinging means~~ hinges affixed to each of the two adjacent edges of each side member connected between the side edges of the adjacently arranged side member means, the hinges ~~hinging means~~ allowing relative rotation between adjacently arranged side members ~~means~~ so that the side member means are foldable into a

substantially flat assembly, the side edges of the side member means defining a plurality of corners of the truss member.

Claims 12-13. (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (Currently amended) The truss member according to claim 11 43, wherein the ~~hinge means~~ hinges comprise surfaces frictionally engaging the bridging ~~means~~ bridges and the ~~hinge means~~ hinges are fixedly connected to the side members ~~means~~.

Claims 15-17 (Cancelled)

Claim 18. (Currently amended) A method of operating assembling a foldable truss member capable of moving from a substantially flat to an open deployed position, comprising:

adjacently bridging ~~coupling~~ a plurality of side members to form a peripheral boundary for each of the truss members, each of the side members including an elongated edge hingedly attached to an adjacent side member, the elongated edges of the side members defining a plurality of corners of the truss member;

rotating the adjacent side members about the elongated edges to put the side members of the truss member in a deployed configuration; and

creating a rotational resistance between said side members so that it is necessary to overcome a holding force when said truss member is in a deployed position and is being moved toward a folded position, to generally maintain said truss in a deployed position.

~~rotating the side members relative to each other to overcome a holding force in the deployed configuration of the truss member to prevent further relative rotation of the side members.~~

Claims 19-20 (Cancelled)

Claim 21 (New) A foldable truss member moveable between a substantially folded and open deployed positions, comprising:

a plurality of adjacently connected side members together forming a peripheral boundary of the truss member, each side member comprising:

an elongated support member having a side surface;

a bridging member hingedly connected to the side surface at an attachment point of the support member,

a plurality of hinge members pivotally joining the bridging member to the support member and an adjacent side member, each hinge member allowing relative rotation of the side members

said hinge members being configured to urge said bridging members to a position corresponding to the deployed position of said truss member, so that when said truss system is deployed, it will tend to stay in a deployed state.

Claim 22 (New) The truss member according to claim 21, wherein the hinge members comprise surfaces frictionally engaging the bridging members and wherein said frictional engagement is variable across said hinge member's surface.

Claim 23 (New) The truss member according to claim 21, wherein the hinge members are configured to urge said truss system to snap into a deployed state.

Claim 24. (New) The truss member according to claim 21, wherein the hinge members comprise a block member affixed to said support member having a channel therethrough, said channel being sized to frictionally receive a movable bridging member.

Claim 25 (New) The truss member according to claim 21, wherein the block member includes a channel for said bridging member and where said channel includes at least one filleted inner surface which contacts said bridging member.

Claim 26 (New) The truss member according to claim 21, wherein the block member includes a channel for said bridging member and where said channel is

radiused to provide rotational resistance between said channel and said bridging member.

Claim 27 (New) The truss member according to claim 25 wherein said channel includes predetermined bend radius, and where said bridging member includes a curved portion sized to be received within said channel and having a predetermined bend radius different from said channel radius, thereby creating frictional interference between said channel and said bridging member.

Claim 28 (New) The truss member according to claim 21 wherein said block member includes a hinge channel therethrough and plurality of surfaces along said channel including a central surface and a flared surface.

Claim 29 (New) The truss member according to claim 28 wherein said flared surface includes a partially flattened region positioned such that, when said truss is in its deployed state, said a portion of said bridging member will be urged into said partially flattened region.

Claim 30 (New) The truss member according to claim 23 wherein block includes a channel having an inner surface and at least one side surface extending from said channel, and wherein said side surface has a trough section and flared sections on either side thereof, and where said side surface is configured to urge said bridging member into said trough when in said deployed state.

Claim 31 (New) The truss member according to claim 30 wherein said trough section and said bridge member are configured to provided feedback resistance whenever said truss is moved from a deployed state toward a folded state.

Claim 32 (New) The truss member according to claim 21 wherein said hinge members include primary hinge members and secondary hinge members, said primary hinge members configured to urge said bridging members to a position corresponding

to the deployed position of said truss member, and said secondary hinge member being free swinging.

Claim 33 (New) The truss member of claim 32 wherein said primary and secondary hinge members are apportioned to tune the deployment force of said hinge members.

Claim 34 (New) The truss member of claim 32 wherein said primary and secondary hinge members are commingled on the truss member to permit adjustment of deployment force of said hinge members.

Claim 35 (New) A foldable truss member moveable between a substantially folded and open deployed positions, comprising:

a plurality of adjacently connected side members together forming a peripheral boundary of the truss member, each side member comprising:

an elongated support member having a side surface;

a bridging member hingedly connected to the side surface at an attachment point of the support member, ~~the bridging member having an extension at an edge of the bridging member opposite the attachment point; and~~

at least one hinge members pivotally joining the bridging member to the support member and an adjacent side member, said hinge member allowing relative rotation of the side members

said at least one hinge members being configured to urge said bridging members to a position corresponding to the deployed position of said truss member, and providing feedback resistance when said truss member is not in said deployed position, so that when said truss system is deployed, it will tend to stay in a deployed state.

Claim 36 (New) A foldable truss member moveable between a substantially folded and open deployed positions, comprising:

a plurality of adjacently connected side members together forming a peripheral boundary of the truss member, each side member comprising:

an elongated support member having a side surface;
a bridging member hingedly connected to the side surface at an attachment point of the support member, ~~the bridging member having an extension at an edge of the bridging member opposite the attachment point; and~~

at least one first and second hinge members pivotally joining the bridging member to the support member and an adjacent side member, said hinge member allowing relative rotation of the side members

said at least one first hinge members being configured to urge said bridging members to a position corresponding to the deployed position of said truss member, so that when said truss system is deployed, it will tend to stay in a deployed state and said at least one second hinge member being substantially free-swinging, so that a combination of first and second hinge members are employed to tune the urging force to a predetermined level.